

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
16 June 2005 (16.06.2005)

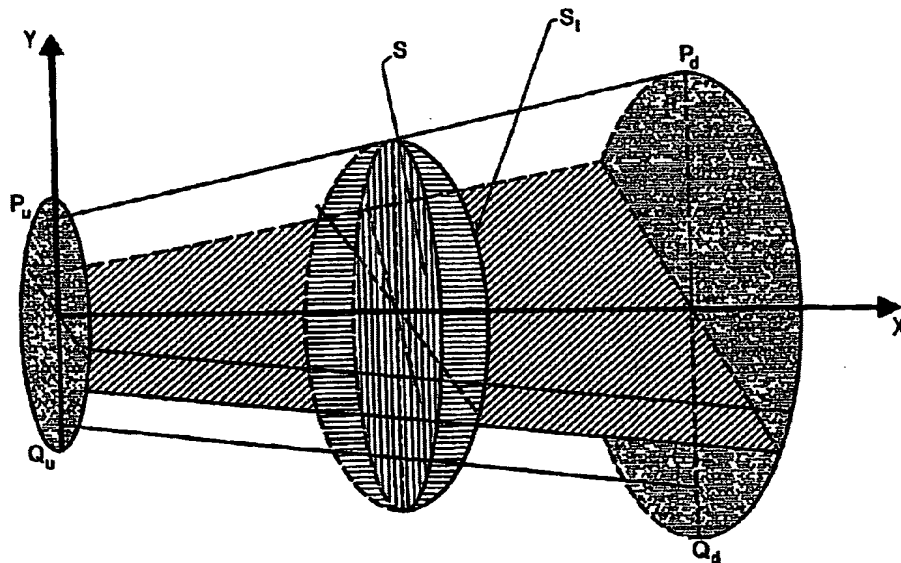
PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2005/055496 A2

- (51) International Patent Classification?: **H04L** (74) Agents: DEROSA, Frank, V. et al.; Chau & Associates, LLC, 130 Woodbury Road, Woodbury, NY 11797 (US).
- (21) International Application Number: **PCT/US2004/039895** (81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.
- (22) International Filing Date:
24 November 2004 (24.11.2004)
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data:
60/525,603 26 November 2003 (26.11.2003) US
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- (84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

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(54) Title: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR OPTIMIZATION OF VESSEL CENTERLINES



(57) Abstract: Methods are provided for optimizing a vessel centerline in a digital image. For instance, a method includes providing a digital image of a vessel wherein said image comprises a plurality of intensities corresponding to a domain of points in a D-dimensional space, initializing a centerline comprising a plurality of points in the vessel (step 20), determining a cross section of the vessel at each point in the centerline (step 21), evaluating a center point for each cross section of the vessel (step 22), and determining a refined centerline from the center points of each cross section (step 23).